

## THE SANJUAN TIMES.

### FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO.

Bloomer weddings may yet be all the rage—if the boys don't object.

The corn crop this year in several of the western states is positively too numerous to mention.

The friends of Miss Frances E. Willard continue to deny that she is to wed. This is scarcely necessary.

All those who have not been murdered by H. H. Holmes will please rise and remain standing until counted.

Wait until Uncle Sam gets ready to ship wheat and corn and cotton. Europe will then have to shell out the yellow metal.

Johnnie Walsh walked from Frisco to Boston for \$500, and is now ready to walk back again—for cash. He says he is trotting across the country for his health.

Some of the Chinese mandarins express astonishment that Americans and Englishmen should make such a fuss because "Chinamen" fling stones at them in the street.

If Japan wants to lick China again and will do it good and hard, the American people will waive any little questions of search and seizure for the nonce and cheerfully hold her coat while she does it.

The Chicago Bicycle Club is fornicist "Sunday races" and has suspended some of its members for indulging in such pastimes. The club is right. The six days of the week are enough for "scorching."

The Governor of South Carolina is disappointed because the state's profit in the saloon business only amounts to \$200,000. A little more foam and smaller glasses will perhaps solve the difficulty, Governor.

It is estimated that the American people have already invested this year \$25,000,000 in bicycles, \$3,000,000 in arnica, and \$1,000,000 in sticking plaster. It has been a little hard on the horses and the savings banks.

In a Kentucky town the other day Mr. Hale asked Mr. Bush to give him a chew of tobacco. Bush refused to do so, whereupon Hale drew a dirk and stabbed him through the heart. Truly a fine-cut performance!

In those great and rival Newport entertainments the question of superiority should be settled by having each guest wear a placard stating the number of millions represented by the wearer, and the value of the diamonds worn.

The portraits of the young woman to whom Charles Dana Gibson, one of Life's artists, is engaged show that she is not a Gibson girl. This shows Mr. Gibson's good taste. The Gibson girl, though attractive, is capable of growing monotonous.

An effort is being made to take from a tribe of Indians called the Metlakatlas an island in Alaska which in 1881 was deeded to them by the United States government. The land is in Southeast Alaska and is known as Annette Island. The natives have improved the land, erected public buildings, churches, and sawmills. A few months ago men prospecting discovered a gold ledge and immediately staked out claims and applied to the government for mineral patents. The Indians entered a protest which was favorably considered, but if money and influence can overrule the Indians mining operations will be commenced.

From New York to San Francisco there is not a city of considerable size which may not soon find itself in imperative need of a vagrancy law so altered as to include those variegated deadheads who, under guise of wagers, are "doing" the country—and the people—in their globe-trotting evolutions. The first man who attempted to circumnavigate the earth in a given time while spending other people's money was a picturesque genius. Since that time there have been a whole host of imitators, and the fashion seems to be spreading. Not a week has passed this season when some frowsy, ambling, down-at-heel "sport" has failed to appear in every big city to "register" and incidentally to solicit interviews and ham sandwiches. All that the vagrant of the statute book accomplishes against society is to feed off it without rendering an equivalent. This the wagger-bounding tourist accomplishes and more. The law presumes that a man shall not have something for nothing, and when an individual capable of earning or paying his way starts out with the avowed intention of getting a great deal for nothing he becomes at least a nuisance. Thirty days of stone-pile might have a very wholesome effect upon some of these peripatetics.

## THE GREAT SOO LOCK.

### LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN ALL THE WORLD.

More Tonnage Now Passes Through Sault Ste. Marie Canal Than Passes Through That at Suez—Profit of Paternalism.



URING THE RECENT visit of Secretary Lamont to the northwest he took occasion to examine the grain-carrying water route which Uncle Sam has for some years been constructing, and one result of this inspection may be seen in the recommendations which he will make to congress for the continuation of the work.

The Sault Ste. Marie canal is at the entrance of the highway thus provided. Between Lake Superior and Lake Huron there is a drop so great as to create rapids in the St. Mary's river which ships cannot risk shooting. Accordingly the United States has constructed a ship canal and locks around the St. Mary's falls, which, admitting vessels at the Lake Superior end, allows them to drop slowly through and letting out of the water until the Lake Huron level is reached, when the lower gate is opened and they can pass through again.

This work was originally undertaken by the state of Michigan more than two-score years ago. Indeed, its first suggestion dates back more than half a century; but delays were experienced, and work on it was not actually undertaken until 1853, when a company was organized, under an act of the legislature of New York, which, at a cost of about \$1,000,000, or nearly double as much as was estimated, carried out the enterprise, completing it in two years, as agreed upon, and opening it in 1855.

The enormous value of this waterway in transporting not only the grains but the ores of the northwest became at once obvious, and the canal in turn developed the industries of the northwest, so that soon enlarged facilities were needed. Congress had contributed 750,000 acres of land, which had been used as an element of value in the construction of the original canal, the contractors taking this land in payment for the construction. However, it became evident that, in order to secure a proper amount from the federal treasury for its improvement, it would be necessary to transfer the canal from the ownership of Michigan to that of the United States. This was accomplished in the year of 1881. In the meantime, however, congress had, eleven years earlier, made an appropriation of \$150,000 for a more capacious lock, and this was completed shortly after the transfer just spoken of, and is now in use. The total amount of expenditures on the lock and the improvements of the canal exceeded \$2,150,000.

But history repeated itself in this case, since by the time that lock was completed it became obvious that a new and much larger one would be necessary. Congress was successfully appealed to, and half a dozen years ago the huge lock now under construction was undertaken. It will be open for use next year. Briefly stating its dimensions, it has a length of 800 feet between gates and a width of 100, and will accommodate vessels drawing twenty-one feet of water. This is sufficient even for the great whaleback barges and steel steamers that carry from 50,000 to 100,000 bushels of wheat. The stone side walls of the lock are 1,100 feet long in all and forty-three feet high. The work on the big steel gates, which are five in number, including both the lock and guard gates for the upper, lower and intermediate locks, is already nearly or quite completed, and so is the masonry of the canal. What remains to be done during the present year and the greater part of the next is the construction of the approaches and the cribs.

To show the need of this work it is enough to state that the freight carried in 1894 through the canal was much more than double what was carried six years previous. Indeed, the enormous amount of more than 13,000,000 net tons was carried in that season, which was an increase of more than one-fifth over the preceding season; and that was done with the present facilities. Thus more freight is carried already there than through the canal of Suez.

The government has done other services for the northwestern grain traffic, including the digging of a submerged canal in the shallows below Lake Huron, called the St. Clair flats, and the blasting out of the ridge of rocks across the Detroit river, known as the Limekiln crossing; and doubtless it will find still other work to do.

### Killed by a Swallowed Pin.

A post-mortem examination on the body of James Ellis, aged 65, who died in Leavenworth, Kan., showed death to have been caused by a pin, swallowed perhaps in childhood.

## THE KANGAROO.

He Is a Success in Many Ways, but Does Not Show Off in Running Down Hill.

Leather made from the skin of the kangaroo is one of the new products in the leather line. It is soft, strong, and the light grades are particularly well adapted for light summer shoes and for shoe tops, while the heavier grades will bear more usage than any other leather finished on the grain side. The light skins are made into the finest brilliant glazed kid and in dull finish for ladies' fine shoes, and the heavy ones are finished for men's fine work. Much of it is crimped and sold for tongue boots. Shoe laces of good qualities are also made of it. The skin of the kangaroo has a wonderfully muscular fibre, which contributes largely to the strength of the animal, enabling the females to carry their young in their pouch until old enough to take care of themselves, and aiding the kangaroo in his long leaps when in motion. The animal is a native of Australia and adjacent islands. It is a distinct species, and has no counterpart in other countries. There are a great number of families, some scarcely larger than a rat, others of almost gigantic size. The giant kangaroo (Macropus major), the family which furnishes the most valuable skins, was discovered by Captain Cook about a century ago, at which time it attracted much attention among naturalists. The natives of Australia call the old males "booma," and are slow to attack them. The "booma" has paws as large as those of a mastiff, though of different shape. His feet are his weapons, and when attacked he is a dangerous antagonist. When raised to his full height his hind legs and tail form a tripod, upon which his body rests, carrying his head as high as that of a man on horseback. The kangaroo lives upon vegetable food, and roams over the plains of Australia in large flocks. Its teeth are so constructed that it can feed upon roots and live upon barren plains, where other animals would starve, and to its destruction of roots is attributed the sterile plains so common in Australia. When feeding a large male stands at his full height and acts as sentinel, while the balance of the flock lie on their sides and browse. At the slightest approach of danger the sentinel sounds the alarm, and in an instant all are erect upon their hind feet. They leap with their forepaws clasped close to their body, the tail stretched backward, while the powerful thigh muscles are caused suddenly to straighten to the joints, by which act the body flies through the air on a low curve. The ordinary jump is about nine feet, but thirty feet is often made at a leap. When pursued by hunters, and on level ground, or on an up-grade, they can outrun the fleetest dog, but down-grade they lose their balance and roll over. The flesh of the kangaroo furnishes excellent food, Kangaroo venison being considered a dainty dish, while the tail furnishes an excellent and nutritious soup.

### SELECTED PLEASANTRIES.

Mrs. Cookzer—That's strange, isn't it?

Rest is an expensive luxury to most people.—Detroit Free Press.

"I think I can stand it," said the hungry man. "I was a tax-collector for three years."—Tid-Bits.

No Cause To.—Mrs. Bizkit—My husband never refers to his mother's cooking; he seems perfectly satisfied with mine.

Mrs. Bizkit—Not to me. You see, his mother used to keep the boarding-house I was stopping at when I married him.—Roxbury Gazette.

The chances are that Mrs. Corbett will have more fun on that \$100 per week than Jim will in raising it.—Washington Post.

Manhood has a contempt for cowardice. That is why you get angrier when you see the other fellow isn't going to fight.—Plain Dealer.

Tommy—Paw, if the lion is the king of beasts, what is the rhinoceros? Mr. Figg—The politician, of course. His hide is two inches thick.—Galveston News.

"That's all right," said the landlord, briskly. "You wait till you've seen my advertisement announcing that half the hotel is reserved for the use of bachelor guests."—Chicago Record.

Didn't Phase Him.—"So you think you can stand the arduous duties of the variety actor? You know in our play we find occasion to throw you down a thirty-foot flight of stairs into a barrel of rainwater."

Mistress—Why are you going to leave? Cook—Well, yer daughter has so many dudes a-calling on 'er, O'm-a-fearful people'll tink some of them is a-calling on me.—Philadelphia Record.

Mrs. Skim—Do your boarders pay promptly? Mrs. Sayre—They did at first. Mrs. Skim—Why don't they now? Mrs. Sayre—They have got so fat they can't get their hands in their pockets.—Harper's Bazar.

Mrs. White—And do you mean to say that you and your husband always agree about everything? Mrs. Black—Always; except, of course, now and then when he's out of humor or pig-headed, or something of that sort.—Boston Transcript.

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